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ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION
ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE
New York, 14-16 and 21-22 October 1992

MONITORING OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION FOR 1992

Addendum

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I. PREPARATIONS FOR THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF 1992 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION

1. The Organizational Committee, at its meeting held on 16 and 17 July 1992, identified a provisional list of items for consideration by the Administrative Committee on Coordination at its second regular session of 1992, to be held in New York on 20 and 21 October 1992.

A. Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

2. At its first regular session of 1992, ACC agreed to a proposal by the Secretary-General to entrust preparations for its discussions on the inter-agency aspects of the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to a small Task Force of its members, which would meet in the interval between the two meetings of the Committee. The Task Force, under the chairmanship of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), identified four issues, drawn from chapter 38 of Agenda 21, as the main basis for its work, and established a Subcommittee of its members to pursue preparations, taking into account, inter alia, inputs requested from all organizations participating in ACC.

3. In preparation for the ACC discussion of this item, the report of the Task Force will be made available to executive heads, following a meeting of the Task Force on 5 October 1992.

4. In addition, ACC's approval is required for the submission to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) of the annual report of ACC on environmental matters.

B. Role and functioning of ACC and its subsidiary machinery

5. The agenda of ACC for its first regular session of 1992 included a main agenda item on the role of the United Nations system in the 1990s and the contribution to be made by the organizations of the system, both individually and collectively. As part of that discussion, ACC agreed to undertake a review of its own role and functioning, including the functioning of its subsidiary machinery. The Secretary-General's proposal that the former Director-General of the International Labour Organisation, Mr. Francis Blanchard, be requested to prepare a paper on the subject was generally welcomed. Mr. Blanchard's preliminary report to ACC will be circulated shortly to executive heads, as a basis for the Committee's discussions.

C. Questions related to personnel

6. By decision 1987/4, ACC decided in principle that an item on questions related to personnel should be included in the agenda of each of its regular sessions. At its second regular session of 1992, ACC will consider this item in the light of the report (ACC/1992/23) of the seventy-seventh session of the

Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions) (CCAQ (PER)), which met in London from 6 to 23 July 1992. Paragraph 6 of the Committee's report draws ACC's attention to a number of issues, including the conclusions of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) thereon, as follows:

(a) The common system: ACC decision 1991/19 on new approaches to conditions of employment of staff in the Professional and higher categories (paras. 7-17);

(b) Base/floor salary scale (paras. 18-19);

(c) Procedure for the determination of the cost-of-living differential between New York and Washington, D.C. (paras. 25-27);

(d) Use of special rates as an integral part of compensation for the comparator civil service (paras. 28-31);

(e) Review of the methodology for surveys of best prevailing conditions of employment at headquarters' duty stations (paras. 32-39);

(f) Comprehensive review of the pensionable remuneration for the General Service and related categories (paras. 42-47);

(g) Pension arrangements outside the Pension Fund for ungraded officials (paras. 48-51);

(h) Review of the level of the education grant (paras. 54-66);

(i) Note for ACC on remuneration levels of other international organizations.

7. In addition, a draft statement for consideration and approval by ACC and submission to the General Assembly is currently being prepared within CCAQ (PER), and will be circulated to the Organizational Committee.

8. An exchange of views between ACC and the Chairman of ICSC and staff representatives, in the context of this agenda item, is also being organized, taking into account the recommendations of the Organizational Committee at its last session.

II. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE

9. The following items are proposed for consideration by the Organizational Committee, in the context, inter alia, of its responsibility for monitoring the programme of work of ACC.

A. Operational activities for development

10. The Organizational Committee will have before it the report (ACC/1992/27) of the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities) (CCSQ (OPS)) on its second regular session of 1992, held in New York from 22 to 25 September 1992. At its meeting in July 1992, the Organizational Committee reserved the possibility of drawing issues in this area to the attention of ACC, in the light of the outcome of that session of CCSQ (OPS).

11. The report of CCSQ (OPS) brings to the attention of ACC the following matters:

(a) The views of the Committee on the elaboration of common country strategies on priority substantive themes;

(b) The text adopted by the Committee reflecting a system-wide understanding of the objectives, definition and guiding principles on the programme approach;

(c) The text adopted by the Committee reflecting a system-wide understanding of the objectives and guiding principles of decentralization;

(d) Some preliminary views of the Committee on the role and functioning of CCSQ (OPS) and its secretariat;

(e) The views of the Committee on the final evaluation of the seven pilot management of field coordination workshops undertaken by the International Training Centre (Turin, Italy) and on the proposed expanded operational activities training programme;

(f) The views of the Committee on the status of implementation of the new support costs arrangements.

12. The Committee recommended that its next regular session be held in Geneva in 1993 either during the period from 16 to 19 March or from 23 to 26 March.

B. Preparations for the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination

13. The Organizational Committee, at its meeting in July 1992, noted that the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council provided a forum for dialogue between Member States and executive heads, and considered that Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and ACC, if held at the technical level, could identify themes to be discussed in the Council and prepare for such discussions.

14. At the second part of its thirty-second session, held from 31 August to 18 September 1992, CPC decided to propose to the ACC that the next series of Joint Meetings be held in conjunction with the first regular session of ACC in 1993 and that they focus on the results of the United Nations Conference on

Environment and Development and their implications for the United Nations system.

C. Follow-up to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1992

15. The Committee may wish to review, in the light of a briefing by the United Nations, the outcome of the high-level and coordination segments of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1992. The Committee will also be briefed on the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group of the Economic and Social Council on enhancing international cooperation for development: the role of the United Nations system. A compendium of proposals before the ad hoc working group will be made available to members of the Organizational Committee.

16. The recommendations contained in the concluding statement of the President of the Economic and Social Council on the coordination segment of the Council on the policies and activities of the United Nations system for the eradication of poverty are available to members of the Organizational Committee (see document A/47/3, annex IV, sect. A). The Committee may wish to discuss the follow-up actions required, including arrangements for the preparation of the report requested in paragraph 11 of the concluding statement.

17. Attention is also drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/40, in which the Council requested the various bodies of the United Nations system, in consultation with the Administrative Committee on Coordination and the Joint Consultative Group on Policy, to reach an early agreement that would ensure an integrated United Nations system approach to, and presence in the countries in the region of the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), including common administrative support arrangements. In that resolution, the Council also requested that, in providing assistance to the countries concerned, the various bodies of the United Nations system take full account of the national priorities of those countries and of the comparative advantage of each of the bodies of the United Nations system. In the same resolution, the Council invited the Secretary-General to prepare a report on ways of ensuring such an integrated approach and presence in the countries concerned and the steps already taken to do so, which would be annexed to the report for the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly. It is envisaged that the Secretary-General's report, being prepared pursuant to the above-mentioned resolution, will focus on relevant actions taken so far within the United Nations proper, along the lines of the information provided by the Secretary-General at the first regular session of ACC of 1992, within the context of the Committee's discussions on the implications for the United Nations system of the transition process in the countries of CIS. The Organizational Committee will be consulted on the way in which the report could best approach system-wide aspects of the resolution, taking into account the ACC's discussions referred to above.

18. Attention is also drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/60 on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States. In that resolution, the Council reiterated the urgent need for representatives of States to be closely

consulted and actively associated with the respective executive and governing bodies of the United Nations institutions, such as the International Computing Centre and the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems, dealing with informatics within the United Nations system, so that the specific needs of States as internal end-users could be given due priority. The Council also called for the urgent implementation of measures in order to achieve the objective of easy, economical, uncomplicated, and unhindered access for all Member States and observers to United Nations computerized databases and information systems and services, and requested the Secretary-General to report on the follow-up action taken on that resolution to the Council at its substantive session of 1993.

D. System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development

19. At its meeting in July 1992, the Organizational Committee was briefed on the steps being taken to finalize the draft system-wide plan, for submission to the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

20. At the second part of its thirty-second session, held in August and September 1992, CPC considered the Plan and acted as follows with respect to conclusions and recommendations relevant to inter-agency action and follow-up:

(a) The Committee recommended that the priorities of the System-wide Plan be used as guidelines for the activities of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system related to African development;

(b) It also recommended that the Secretary-General should call upon all relevant executive heads of United Nations agencies and bodies to accord high priority to the implementation of the Plan;

(c) The Committee emphasized the role of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and its Chairman in the follow-up and coordinated implementation of the Plan. The Committee recommended that the United Nations Funds and Programmes, the specialized agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions should intensify specific programmes and activities related to Africa in their work programmes. The Committee urged the specialized agencies to continue to monitor the situation of resources available for Africa;

(d) The Committee recommended that the Plan be monitored and updated in the framework of the United Nations Inter-agency Task Force for African Economic Recovery and Development. At the intergovernmental level, the Committee decided to keep the implementation of the Plan under review, considering that the follow-up and implementation of the Plan needed to be discussed with ACC at a later stage;

(e) The Committee recommended that, since the Plan represented the contribution of the United Nations system to the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, in accordance with paragraph 39 of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/151, the process of updating it should be carried out after each review of the implementation of the New Agenda by the General Assembly;

(f) The Committee recommended that revisions be submitted for consideration by CPC in 1994, 1996 and thereafter as might be decided by CPC;

(g) The Committee also recommended that, in view of the importance of the Plan and the unsuccessful outcome of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990, the Secretary-General should play a leading role in its implementation in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

21. The Organizational Committee may wish to discuss arrangements for follow-up to these recommendations.

E. Annual overview report of ACC for 1992

22. A draft outline for the next annual overview report of ACC, prepared by the United Nations, is contained in the annex to the present document. The Organizational Committee may wish to review the draft outline and consider, in that light, arrangements for the preparation of the report.

F. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

23. At its meeting in July 1992, the Organizational Committee approved ACC comments on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on the assessment of the environmental focus of projects financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other United Nations bodies, for consideration by the General Assembly.

24. At its October 1992 meeting, the Committee will have before it for review draft ACC comments on the JIU report entitled "United Nations system cooperation with multilateral financial institutions" (JIU/REP/92/1, parts I and II).

G. Assistance to countries affected by the sanctions concerning Iraq, in the context of Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations

25. At its meeting in July 1992, the Organizational Committee was briefed on this matter and decided to pursue discussions at its October meeting, on the basis of up-to-date information. The Secretary-General wrote to executive heads, on 5 September 1992, requesting information on measures undertaken and progress achieved in the period 1991-1992 in support of the 21 States that had invoked Article 50. The United Nations will brief the Committee on the replies received.

H. Inter-agency coordination mechanisms for the World Decade for Cultural Development, 1988-1997

26. In its resolution 41/187, the General Assembly proclaimed the period 1988-1997 the World Decade for Cultural Development, to be observed under the auspices of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In accordance with the Plan of Action for the World Decade for Cultural Development, UNESCO was assigned the role of lead agency.

27. An Intergovernmental Committee of the World Decade for Cultural Development has been established by the General Conference of UNESCO for the purpose of coordinating and evaluating the implementation of the Plan of Action. At the proposal of the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters) (CCSQ (PROG)), focal points for contacts with UNESCO have also been designated in the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system. In addition, an Inter-agency Steering Committee has been established by ACC to review regularly progress being achieved in promoting the goals and objectives of the Decade.

28. The Organizational Committee will be briefed by the United Nations and UNESCO on the experience gained in the work of these mechanisms and may, on that basis, wish to consider whether any improvements need to be introduced to strengthen coordination arrangements in connection with the Decade.

I. Matters arising from the reports of subsidiary bodies of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and from ad hoc inter-agency meetings convened under its auspices

29. The Organizational Committee, on behalf of ACC, will have before it the reports of the following subsidiary bodies:

(a) Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Coordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control, Vienna, 16 April 1992;

(b) Ad Hoc Inter-agency Working Group on Demographic Estimates and Projections, on its seventeenth session, Rome, 23-25 June 1992;

(c) Second Inter-agency Consultation on the Follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, Geneva, 25 and 26 June 1992;

(d) Ad Hoc Task Force for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994, New York, 6 July 1992;

(e) Joint United Nations Information Committee (eighteenth session), Rome (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)), 7-9 July 1992;

(f) Report of the ACC Working Group on the Early Warning of New Flows of Refugees and Displaced Persons, New York, 9 July 1992;

(g) Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions) (CCAQ (FB)), New York, 31 August to 4 September 1992;

(h) Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Coordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control, Vienna, 14-16 September 1992; consultations on drug abuse and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), 17 September 1992.

In connection with these reports, the attention of the Organizational Committee is drawn, inter alia, to those described below.

1. Follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

30. The report of the Second Inter-agency Consultation on the Follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s draws attention to the actions to be undertaken within the United Nations system to bring the Programme of Action to the attention of donors, particularly in view of the current uncertain financing prospects for the least developed countries, and to the additional resources required by bodies that carry out operational activities in support of those countries, including measures to ensure the resource base of the United Nations Capital Development Fund and to replenish the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries. It also highlights the importance of access by the least developed countries to the regional, interregional and global programmes of UNDP and the regional commissions, and emphasizes the need for the United Nations system, as well as bilateral donors, to step up financial and technical assistance to the least developed countries for coping with the impact of AIDs.

2. Early Warning of New Flows of Refugees and Displaced Persons

31. The report of the ACC Working Group on the Early Warning of New Flows of Refugees and Displaced Persons, established by ACC decision 1991/9, recommends the phased establishment of a United Nations early warning system, beginning with the creation of an inter-agency consultative mechanism. The functioning of the mechanism would be examined not later than two years following its establishment, and proposals would be drawn up for the creation of a more comprehensive system, based on the experience gained. Each participating United Nations organization would collect and analyse relevant information in its area of competence and convey its assessment and recommendations to the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. The consultative mechanism would be convened monthly by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in Geneva to prepare joint conclusions and recommendations for submission to the Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the executive heads of the participating organizations.

3. Joint United Nations Information Committee, eighteenth session, Rome, 7-9 July 1992

32. Stressing the importance of non-governmental organizations as partners in the work of the United Nations system as a whole, the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC) recommends that the Non-Governmental Liaison Service should become a jointly financed activity of the United Nations system, based on voluntary and sustainable financial contributions.

33. With respect to the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, JUNIC indicates that it is awaiting guidance from ACC for the development of a programme of joint information activities for the observance of the anniversary.

J. Appointments to posts in the subsidiary machinery of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

34. Matters pending decision under this item include the proposed extension of the appointment of the Executive Secretary of the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems (ACCIS), which was first taken up by the Organizational Committee at its July 1992 meeting, and an appointment to the post of Coordinator of the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities) (CCSQ (OPS)). The Committee may wish to consider this item at its meeting in October, so as to take into account the results of the ACC's discussion on the functioning of ACC and its subsidiary machinery. In the same context, the Committee may wish to make arrangements to resume its earlier discussions on the grading and terms of office of different inter-agency posts in the ACC subsidiary machinery, with a view to achieving greater harmonization.

K. Meetings of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and its subsidiary machinery in 1992 and 1993

35. At its meetings in October of 1991 and February 1992, the Organizational Committee approved, on behalf of ACC, the convening in 1992 of a number of meetings within the ACC framework. At its October 1992 meeting, the Committee will consider further proposals for the convening of meetings in 1992 and 1993. The recommendations so far received include:

(a) Joint United Nations Information Committee, special session, November 1992 (tentatively), and nineteenth session, International Maritime Organization (IMO) (London), July 1993;

(b) Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions), first regular session of 1993, New York, 1-5 March 1993;

(c) Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions), first session of 1993, Vienna, 8-12 March 1993;

(d) Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities), Geneva, either during the period 16-19 March or 23-26 March 1993, preferably the latter;

(e) Inter-agency Meeting on Coordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control, Vienna, 7-8 April 1993, and Paris, 6-8 September 1993;

(f) Informal Inter-agency Working Group at the Technical Level on Youth (Ninth session), Vienna, 19-20 April 1993;

(g) Twenty-first meeting of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development, World Bank (Washington, D.C.), 5-7 May 1993;

(h) Ad Hoc Task Force for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994; July 1993 (in connection with the Economic and Social Council);

(i) Inter-agency Consultation on the Follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, 1993 (exact dates to be determined);

(j) Ad Hoc Inter-agency Working Group on Demographic Estimates and Projections, eighteenth session, New York, late June 1994.

Annex

DRAFT OUTLINE: ANNUAL OVERVIEW REPORT OF ACC

1. Foreword by the Secretary-General.

2. Major substantive and coordination issues considered by ACC in 1992:

   (a) Role of the United Nations system in the 1990s and the contributions to be made by its organizations, individually and collectively;

   (b) Review of the functioning of ACC and its subsidiary machinery: principal considerations and conclusions;

   (c) Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

   (d) Implications for the United Nations system of the transition process in Eastern and Central Europe and in the States of the Commonwealth of Independent States;

   (e) Inter-agency implications of the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

3. Follow-up to the recommendations of intergovernmental bodies (the Economic and Social Council, the Committee on Programme and Coordination).

4. Financial, administrative and personnel issues:

   (a) Personnel and general administrative issues;

   (b) Financial issues.

5. Summary of main conclusions of the subsidiary bodies of ACC and of ad hoc bodies convened under its auspices.

6. Other matters.